

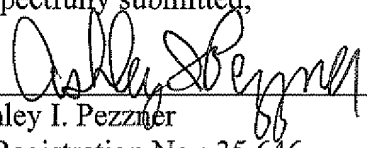
**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 8-11 and 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Akita et al. (U.S. 6,124,060) ("Akita"). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Akita was filed **May 17, 1999**. The applicant's PCT was filed December 11, 1999. The applicant's priority document was filed **December 25, 1998**. The applicant has filed an English certified translation of their priority document which the applicants believe antedates this reference. For the above reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 12834-00022-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Ashley I. Pezzner

Registration No.: 35,646

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1007 North Orange Street

P.O. Box 2207

Wilmington, Delaware 19899

(302) 658-9141

(302) 658-5614 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant